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Listing of the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1-7. (Cancelled).

8. (Currently Amended) A method of mutating a gene of a vertebrate animal, comprising the steps of:

- a) treating ~~a sperm~~sperms of the vertebrate animal with a psoralen derivative;
- b) irradiating the ~~sperm with UV light; and~~irradiated sperms with UV light to form a crosslink between a DNA double helix and the psoralen derivative;
- c) ~~subjecting the irradiated sperm to artificial fertilization; fertilizing eggs of the vertebrate animal with the irradiated sperms in vitro; and~~
- d) growing the fertilized eggs to embryos of mutant having a gene having small deletion of a plurality base pairs around the crosslinked site in a genome.

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the psoralen derivative is 4,5',8-trimethylpsoralen.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the vertebrate animal is zebrafish.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein the mutation is introduced into a region containing a pyrimidine base.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for preparation of a mutated gene of a vertebrate animal, comprising the steps of:

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- a) treating a ~~spermsperms~~ of the vertebrate animal with a psoralen derivative;
- b) irradiating the treated ~~sperms~~ with UV light to form a crosslink between a DNA double helix and the psoralen derivative; and
- c) ~~subjecting~~fertilizing an egg of the vertebrate animal with the irradiated sperm to artificial fertilization in vitro; and
- d) growing the fertilized eggs to embryos of mutant having a gene having small deletion of a plurality of base pairs around the crosslinked site in genome.

14. (Cancelled).

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein the psoralen derivative is 4,5',8-trimethylpsoralen.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the vertebrate animal is zebrafish.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein the mutation is introduced into a region containing a pyrimidine base.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for analyzing a function of a gene of a vertebrate animal, comprising the steps of:

- a) treating a ~~spermsperms~~ of the vertebrate animal with a psoralen derivative;
- b) irradiating the treated ~~germ-cell~~sperms with UV light to form a crosslink between a DNA double helix and the psoralen derivative;
- c) ~~subjecting~~fertilizing an egg of the vertebrate animal with the irradiated sperm to artificial fertilization in vitro;
- d) growing the fertilized eggs to a mutant having a mutated gene having a small deletion of a plurality base pairs around the crosslinked site in a genome;
- e) ~~comparing phenotype of a mutant having the mutated gene~~ comparing phenotype of the mutant with that of a wild type of the vertebrate animal to find the difference of phenotype between the mutant and the wild type;

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e) ~~determining~~ f) cloning the mutated gene; and
f) ~~g)~~ analyzing functions of a gene of the vertebrate animal corresponding to the mutated gene from the said differences of phenotype-difference of phenotype between the mutant and the wild type.

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the psoralen derivative is 4,5',8-trimethylpsoralen.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein the vertebrate animal is zebrafish.

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein the mutation is introduced into a region containing a pyrimidine base.